

Hospitalito Improves Quality of Care Through Expanded Services

In September, a Global Health Commission, part of the prominent medical journal *The Lancet*, published an article on the importance of forming high-quality health systems in the developing world. The article stated, “In short, it is becoming clear that access to health care is not enough, and that good quality of care is needed to improve outcomes.”

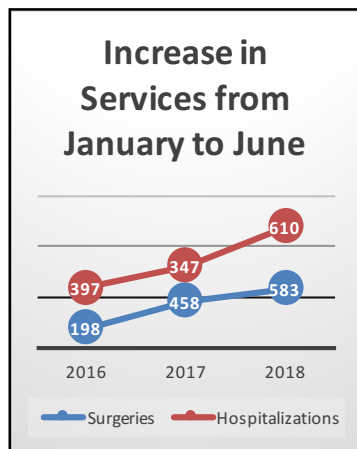
The commission defined a high-quality health system as, “...one that optimizes health care in a given context by consistently delivering care that improves or maintains health outcomes, by being valued and trusted by all people, and by responding to changing population needs.”



Hospitalito Atitlán has taken initiative, offering culturally competent care to our patients — Maya living around Lake Atitlán, many of whom are low income and lack formal education. Our medical and support staff speak the native languages and work closely with families to provide both preventive and clinical services. These include general and emergency medical care, as well as increased community outreach to rural areas; extensive diabetes identification, prevention, education and treatment; a nutrition program; and reproductive health services. The Hospitalito’s activities reflect the most prevalent healthcare issues in our community, and we are committed to expanding to other areas of need.

HA has had an increase in general, obstetrical, trauma, and specialty surgeries performed by our physicians, volunteers and members of surgical jornadas (as seen in the graph). Hospitalito patients receive dental and ophthalmological treatment and other services often unheard of among low-resource, rural, indigenous populations.

We at the Hospitalito share the values cited by the commission. Patients always come first, regardless of their ability to pay. Every patient receives the same quality of care. HA’s staff is resilient, serving the needs of our patients whether in the hospital or out in the field. We are constantly striving to deliver efficient and effective healthcare.



Your Support Makes High-Quality Care Possible

We are able to achieve this level of high-quality care thanks to your investments in us. We hope you will continue to support our work and to spread the word about the Hospitalito and your personal experiences with family, friends and coworkers through social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter. Your stories and photos may help inspire someone to become a part of the Hospitalito family as a donor, volunteer or visitor. Together, we can continue increasing the Hospitalito’s impact and serve as an example of a high-quality health system for similar hospitals around the world.

For more information: <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/quality-health-systems>